

Appln. No.: 09/672,450
Amendment dated May 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing an image, comprising:
capturing ~~an~~ a digital image;
dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments;
performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments; and
storing each of the plurality of processed image segments.
2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step comprises performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.
3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises storing an image segment as soon as said step of performing image processing on said image segment has been completed.
4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step is being performed on a first image segment when the storing step is being performed on a second image segment.
5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dividing step comprises dividing the image into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.
6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising stitching the plurality of image segments together to restore the image after the performing step.
7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the stitching step comprises stitching the plurality of image segments together sequentially following the performing step.

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8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein one of the pipeline stages is divided into at least two parallel processing stages.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step comprises performing at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

10. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the steps comprising:

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causing a digital image device to capture an-a digital image;

causing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments;

causing image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments;

and

causing each of the plurality of processed image segments to be stored on a storage medium.

11. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of causing the image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.

12. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim_10, wherein said step of causing each of the plurality of image segments to be stored occurs as soon as a first one of the plurality of image segments arrives at the storage medium.

13. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim_10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of causing the image processing to be performed on a first image segment when a second image segment is being stored on the storage medium.

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14. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim_10, wherein said step of causing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments includes causing the image to be divided into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.

15. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions comprising causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together to restore the image after the step of causing image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments.

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16. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 15, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together comprising causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together sequentially.

17. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein one of the pipelines stage is divided into at least two parallel processing stages.

18. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of causing image processing to be performed includes causing at least a portion of the image processing to be performed in at least two parallel image processing stages.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an image sensor that captures an digital image;
a processor that divides the captured image into a plurality of image segments and performs image processing on each of the plurality of image segments; and
a storage medium that stores each of the processed image segments.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor is arranged to perform the image processing of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.

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21. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the storage medium stores each of the processed data segments as each of the processed data segments arrives at the storage medium.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor is arranged to stitch the processed image segments together to restore the image.

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23. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor is arranged to perform at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing image file information, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for a stored image; and

updating the image file information that has been affected by the step of performing image processing on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising modifying at least one of the stored plurality of image segments that has been affected by the step of performing image processing on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

26. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

storing image file information on the storage medium, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for an image stored on the storage medium; and

updating the image file information that has been affected by image processing performed on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

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27. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the step of modifying at least one of the plurality of image segments stored on the storage medium that has been affected by image processing performed on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.
